

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 SAJ-01 /153 W

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R 240720Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8333

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USDEL JEC PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VS, VN, MARR

SUBJECT: LE DUC THO REJECTS NOBEL PRIZE

REF: FBIS OKINAWA B231712Z OCTOBER 1973

1. REFERENCE IS VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY (VNA) BROADCAST OF OCTOBER 23 CONTAINING TEXT LE DUC THO'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT OF NOBEL PRIZE COMMITTEE REJECTING NOBEL PEACE PRIZE AWARDED HIM JOINTLY WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. THO SAID HE REJECTS PRIZE BECAUSE "PEACE HAS NOT BEEN REALLY RESOTRED IN SOUTH VIET-NAM." PREDICTABLY, HE BLAMES THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS ON "THE VERY SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF MANY ESSENTIAL PROVISIONS OF THE (PARIS) AGREEMENT" COMMITTED BY THE GVN, ALLEGEDLY WITH "US SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT."

2. THO ALSO TAKES ISSUE WITH THE NOTION THAT PARIS AGREEMENT WAS IN ANY WAY A COMPROMISE, AN IDEA MADE EXPLICIT BY THE NOBEL COMMITTEE IN ITS CITATION AWARDED THE PRIZE. QUITE THE CONTRARY, THO BOASTS, "THE US IMPERIALISTS HAVE BEEN DEFEATED; THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON VIET-NAM HAS BEEN CONCLUDED; IT CONSTITUTES A GREAT,
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EPOCH-MAKING VICTORY OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE...." THO

IN CONSLUSION, SAID THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER ACCEPTING
PRIZE WHEN THE "THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON VIET-NAM IS
RESPECTED, GUNS ARE SILENCED, AND PEACE IS REALLY RESTORED
IN SOUTH VIET-NAM."

3. COMMENT: THO'S REJECTION OF THE PRIZE WAS WIDELY
PREDICTED. HANOI PROBABLY FELT THAT THE AWARD, WERE THO
TO ACCEPT IT, MIGHT EMBARRASS THE REGIME SHOULD IT
CHOOSE TO RESUME LARGE-SCALE HOSTILITIES AT ANY
TIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, HONOR AWARDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON18388
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731014/aaaaakgn.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: FBIS OKINAWA B231712Z OCTOBER 1973
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <02-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LE DUC THO REJECTS NOBEL PRIZE
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, VS, VN, (LE DUC THO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005